Plan to Preserve Ecology

2185. SHRI S. MADHAVAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Tamil Nadu State Government has submitted a management plan to preserve the ecology of its 100 K.M. coast for the approval of the Central Government; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken on this plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir. A management plan for the coastal stretch of Tamil Nadu has been submitted.

(b) The plan, was examined by the Task Force constituted by the Government. The Task Force had advised the State Government to furnish certain additional details.

Ash content in non-coking coal

2186. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGRAWALLA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that high ash coal being supplied by Coal India Limited to industrial and other users, mainly to the thermal power plants, is polluting the environment;

(b) if so, the details of action taken to contain the pollution levels on this account;

(c) what is the optimum level of ash content in non-coking coal used in thermal power plants for its being environment friendly; and

(d) the extent of environment degradation with each percentage point increase in ash content in non-coking coal used in thermal power plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The Indian coal presently supplied to all thermal power plants has ash content varying from approximately 35% to 45%. The emissions resulting out of combustion of such a high ash coal would pose pollution problems if mitigative measures are not taken.

(b) Action taken to contain pollution includes the following :

(i) The Government have notified emission norms for thermal power plants and other industrial units which burn coal and in order to meet these norms, the units will have to install pollution control equipments such as electro-static precipitators and bag filters.

(ii) In the case of new industrial units, while issuing clearance, Government stipulates green belt to be provided all around the power plants to check the fugitive emissions.

(iii) Continuous monitoring of air and water quality is made a condition while giving clearance for new units.

(iv) The thermal power plants are required to prepare and comply with fly ash utilisation programmes. Newer plants are required to comply with fly ash utilisation to the maximum extent possible.

(c) Boilers can be designed to utilise coal with high ash content provided the quality of coal is maintained consistently.

(d) There is no co-relation between environment degradation vis-a-vis ash contained in coal because no environmental degradation will occur if proper pollution control measure are taken.

Noise pollution in Delhi

2187. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA : SHRIMATI MIRA DAS :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that air pollution and the average ambient noise levels have increased sharply in Delhi during last one decade;

(b) what are the details of the air pollution due to two wheelers, three wheelers, cars and buses releasing pollution and details of quantum in terms of metric tonnes of Carbon Monoxide, Nitrogen Oxide, Hydro Carbons and Sulphur dioxide;

(c) what are the air pollution controlling measures being taken by the concerned department in Delhi and what is the result; and

(d) what are the major sources of noise pollution and details about the department which is functioning to control the noise pollution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir. It is true that average ambient noise levels have increased during the last few years in Delhi. A comparison between surveys conducted during 1987 and 1993 by Delhi Pollution Control Committee reveals that noise level has increased by 5 decibals. *This is*